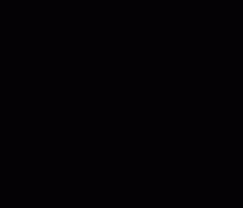
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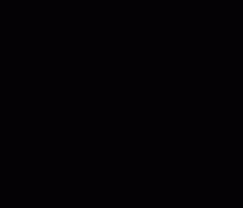
**9/11 ATTACKS**

**THE TWIN TOWERS**

The **September 11 attacks** were a series of four coordinated [suicide attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide_attack) upon the United States in New York City and the Washington, D.C., area on September 11, 2001. On that Tuesday morning, 19 [terrorists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism) from the [Islamist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamist) militant group [al-Qaeda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda) [hijacked](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_hijacking) four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally crashed two planes, [American Airlines Flight 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Airlines_Flight_11) and [United Airlines Flight 175](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines_Flight_175), into the Twin Towers of the [World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Center) in New York City; both towers collapsed within two hours. Hijackers crashed [American Airlines Flight 77](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Airlines_Flight_77) into [the Pentagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon) in [Arlington, Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlington,_Virginia). The fourth jet, [United Airlines Flight 93](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines_Flight_93), crashed into a field near [Shanksville, Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanksville,_Pennsylvania), after passengers attempted to take control before it could reach the hijacker's intended target in Washington, D.C. [Nearly 3,000 died in the attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_September_11_attacks).

Early on the morning of September 11, 2001, [19 hijackers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hijackers_in_the_September_11_attacks) took control of four commercial airliners en route to San Francisco and Los Angeles after takeoff from Boston, Newark, and Washington, D.C.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks#cite_note-911-ch1-4) Planes with long flights were intentionally selected for hijacking because they would be heavily fueled.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks#cite_note-Chap7-5) At 8:46 a.m., five hijackers crashed [American Airlines Flight 11](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Airlines_Flight_11) into the World Trade Center's North Tower and at 9:03 a.m., another five hijackers crashed [United Airlines Flight 175](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Airlines_Flight_175) into the South Tower.



Three buildings in the World Trade Center Complex [collapsed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collapse_of_the_World_Trade_Center) due to structural failure. The South Tower collapsed at 9:59 a.m. after burning for 56 minutes in a fire caused by the impact of United Airlines Flight 175. The North Tower collapsed at 10:28 a.m. after burning for 102 minutes. When the North Tower collapsed, debris fell on the nearby [7 World Trade Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_World_Trade_Center) building damaging it and starting fires. These fires burned for hours, compromising the building's structural integrity, and collapsed at 5:21 p.m.

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:September_17_2001.jpg)

There were a total of 2,996 deaths, including the 19 hijackers and 2,977 victims. The victims included 246 on the four planes (from which there were no survivors), 2,606 in New York City in the towers and on the ground, and 125 at the Pentagon. All the deaths in the attacks were civilians, except for 55 military personnel killed at the Pentagon.

10TH ANNIVERSERY ON 9/11

